





# BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

---

## *Annual Report for 1934 of the Medical Officer of Health.*

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
DARTFORD,

30th April, 1935.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1934.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health and is an Ordinary Report as contrasted with the Survey Reports required at intervals of five years.

I should like to again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**THOMAS FARTHING,**

Medical Officer of Health.

### STAFF.

- \*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin.)—Medical Officer of Health (part time) ; also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.
- \*DR. MARIE L. P. CRAWFORD, M.B., B.S., (Lond.) L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.—Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, also late Assistant Medical Officer, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.
- \*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I.—Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and other Food Inspector) ; also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.
- C. H. SARGENT, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and other Food Inspector).  
(Resigned appointment 30th November, 1934).
- G. SAFFIN, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector). Commenced duties 1st January, 1935.
- \*MISS A. A. BRIMBLE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.
- \*MISS E. NEALE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., C.M.B.
- MISS E. SORRELL.—Clerk to Department.

\* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	4,240
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1934) ...	31,440
Population (Census, 1931) ... ..	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1934) according to Rate Books	7,430
Rateable Value ... ..	£225,051
Sum represented by 1d. rate ... ..	£881

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,240 statute acres.

The district is chiefly an industrial one, but there is a residential area at the west end of the town, in the neighbourhood of The Heath, with a growing number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District :—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.  
 London County Mental Hospital.  
 Kent County Council, King Edward Avenue Hospital.  
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

## STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are :—

Engineering.	Tanning.
Paper Making.	Silk Printing.
Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

Unemployment in Dartford is not so great as in many of the towns in the country. Separate figures for the Borough are not available. The area served by the Dartford Employment Exchange comprises Dartford Borough, Crayford Urban District and Dartford Rural District. I am informed by the manager that the number of persons registered as unemployed during the year 1934 varied as follows :—

Number registered as unemployed.		Percentage of insured persons in area.
	—	—
January ...	1575	8.4
June ...	911	4.8
December ...	1331	7.1

## OPEN SPACES.

The District is well provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include :—

Dartford Heath .....	340 acres.
Central Park .....	29 acres.
Hesketh Park .....	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

# EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1934.

<b>Live Births</b> —Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	Males.	Females.	Total.
	...	...	...	...	...	224	200	424
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
						230	206	436

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	13.86
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	...	14.8

<b>Still Births.</b> —Number of still births during the year...	...	...	...	...	14
Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	32.11

<b>Deaths</b>	...	...	...	...	...	Males.	Females.	Total.
	...	...	...	...	...	141	147	288
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.16
Death Rate for England and Wales for the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.8
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-								
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

<b>Infantile Mortality.</b>	...	...	...	...	...	Males.	Females.	Total.
	...	...	...	...	...	13	16	29
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	18	31

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	71.1
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1934	...	...	...	59

## Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	16	3	2	...	21	5	2	1	2	31
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(nottuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	3
Congenital malformation	...	5	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	8
Premature Birth	...	9	...	2	...	11	...	...	...	...	11
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	5
Totals	...	16	3	2	...	21	5	2	1	2	31

# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1933-1934.

Causes of Death.	1933.		1934.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...
2. Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...
3. Measles. ... ..	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	1	...
5. Whooping Cough. ... ..	...	2	...	...
6. Diphtheria. ... ..	...	1	1	2
7. Influenza. ... ..	1	2	3	...
8. Encephalitis lethargica. ... ..	1	...	...	1
9. Cerebro-spinal fever. ... ..	...	...	...	.
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system. ... ..	12	10	11	10
11. Other tuberculous diseases. ... ..	2	...	...	1
12. Syphilis. ... ..	1	2	...	...
13. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.	2	...	1	...
14. Cancer, malignant disease. ... ..	14	19	19	15
15. Diabetes. ... ..	...	7	2	2
16. Cerebral haemorrhage, &c. ... ..	9	8	1	10
17. Heart disease. ... ..	47	48	43	45
18. Aneurism. ... ..	1	...	...	...
19. Other circulatory diseases. ... ..	4	5	5	6
20. Bronchitis. ... ..	3	3	1	3
21. Pneumonia (all forms). ... ..	11	7	6	7
22. Other respiratory diseases. ... ..	3	...	2	3
23. Peptic ulcer. ... ..	3	...	5	2
24. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years). ... ..	1	3	...	2
25. Appendicitis. ... ..	...	...	1	...
26. Cirrhosis of liver. ... ..	...	...	...	1
27. Other diseases of liver, etc. ... ..	...	...	1	2
28. Other digestive diseases. ... ..	1	4	1	3
29. Acute and chronic nephritis. ... ..	1	2	6	3
30. Puerperal sepsis. ... ..	...	...	...	...
31. Other puerperal causes. ... ..	...	...	...	2
32. Congenital debility, premature birth, malform- ations, etc. ... ..	8	2	11	13
33. Senility. ... ..	1	4	...	2
34. Suicide. ... ..	3	...	1	1
35. Other violence. ... ..	4	...	2	3
36. Other defined diseases. ... ..	13	8	17	8
37. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	146	137	141	147

# SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1930—1934.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure). ... ..	27,660 (1929)	29,290	29,260	30,210	31,440
Births ... ..	423	429	458	428	436
Birth Rate ... ..	15.29	14.64	15.65	14.16	13.86
Still-births ... ..	10	8	7	12	14
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	16.3	15.8	15.3	14.4	14.8
Deaths ... ..	227	246	283	283	288
Death Rate ... ..	8.206	8.39	9.6	9.36	9.16
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.4	12.3	11.8	12.3	11.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year	15	16	23	18	31
Infantile Death Rate ... ..	35.46	37.29	50.2	42.05	71.1
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales). ... ..	60	66	65	64	59

## NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

### (A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Council make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Child Welfare Clinic.



## (B) MIDWIVES.

There are six midwives practising in the Borough. The controlling authority for midwives is the Kent County Council.

## (C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Market Street	Maintained by the Council
School Clinic, Kent Road ... ..	Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street ... ..	
Venereal Clinic, King Edward Avenue Hospital }	

## (D) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

1. King Edward Avenue Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes, under the management of Kent County Council (Public Assistance Committee), available for persons resident in the area under the control of the Public Assistance Committee and by private patients from the same area.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases) under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Urban District, Crayford Urban District, Swanscombe Urban District. Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green. The Joint Hospital Committee have under consideration an extension scheme which will provide a new administration block and new wards, making the available accommodation up to 133 beds.

## (E) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i). INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii). GENERAL CASES.—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain a motor ambulance which is available for accidents and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

During the year 1934, the following cases were dealt with by this ambulance :—

Accidents .....	104
Sick removals to local hospitals .....	329
Sick removals to London hospitals and other places .....	70



The charges made for the use of the ambulance are as follows :—

To local hospitals ..... 5/-

To London hospitals and other removals outside the District 9d. per mile (both journeys) with special terms for distances over 100 miles.

There is also a scheme whereby subscribers of a minimum of 1/- per year are entitled to the free use of the ambulance for removals to local hospitals, etc. and at 6d. per mile for longer journeys.

First aid duties are also carried out by members of the division at the local Cinemas, Football Grounds, etc., and road service during the summer months. 193 first aid cases have been attended during the year.

The Ambulance of the Kent County Council Public Assistance Committee is also available, on payment of the scale of charges fixed by the Council, for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

## LABORATORY WORK.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis :—

Diphtheria swabs	... ..	216
Tuberculosis sputa	... ..	148
Typhoid, including Widal test	... ..	12
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	... ..	1
Samples of Grade "A" (T.T.) Milk	... ..	12
Samples of Water from Swimming Baths	... ..	3
Samples of drinking water	... ..	2

## ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II, III and V.

Adopted 2nd, January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part II	... ..	} Adopted 2nd April, 1909
Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part III	... ..	
Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part IV...	... ..	
Whole of Part V	... ..	
Whole of Part VI	... ..	} Adopted 19th March, 1909.
Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part VII	... ..	
Section 90 in Part VIII	... ..	
Section 95 in Part X	... ..	
		Adopted 4th Jan., 1913

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II, III, IV and V adopted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

### BYE-LAWS.

Consequent upon the Charter of Incorporation, all bye-laws which had been made prior to 1st January, 1923, ceased to be in force in the Borough on 8th November, 1934.

During the year new bye-laws were adopted regarding :—

Common Lodging Houses.  
Good Rule and Government.  
Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).  
Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).  
Nuisances.  
Offensive Trades.  
Removal of Offensive Matter.  
Slaughterhouses.  
Tents, Vans and Sheds.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

With the exception of a few isolated houses in the rural portions of the district, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been noticed or dealt with during the year.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is, and has been for many years, main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

There are only 81 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. 98.9% of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

During the year three houses previously cesspool drained have been connected to the public sewer.

#### CLOSED ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area, where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned :—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	58
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Privies and earth closets	...	...	...	...	...	2

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

**SCAVENGING.**

A collection of house refuse is made in the district weekly and in the central portion of the district, twice weekly.

The substitution of motors for horse drawn vehicles for refuse collection has been decided upon and is being carried out.

The refuse is destroyed at the Corporation's destructor, with the exception of that produced at the Bexley Mental Hospital which is dealt with at a small destructor maintained by the Corporation at the Institution.

During the year 40 ash-bins have been provided in lieu of open brick ash-pits.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.**

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following :—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at the Tram Centre.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Three Urinals at various parts of the Town.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

The Baths and Public Lavatories at the Tram Centre, which were opened in November, 1931, have continued to prove very useful both to the inhabitants and visitors to the town.

Increased use has been made of the Slipper Baths as will be seen from the following comparative figures for 1933 and 1934 :—

	1933	1934
Men .. ..	8,828	8,916
Boys .. ..	321	334
Women .. ..	2,975	3,095
Girls .. ..	189	207
TOTAL ..	12,313	12,552

**PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

There are two Central and nine Junior schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory.

## HOUSING.

### NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	497
									and 2 Flats

#### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made.	Houses 269.	Inspections	1036
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and the number of inspections made.	Houses 90.	Inspections	349
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			None
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses under paragraph 2 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation			90

#### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	260
---	-----

#### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Sec. 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	None
	(b) By local authority in default of Owners	None
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	22
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	None
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (represented in 1933)	15
(2)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	None
(3)	Number of dwellings in respect of which " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " were accepted by the Council	None
(4)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " had been accepted by the Council	2
(5)	Number of dwellings in respect of which undertaking not to use as a dwelling was accepted by the Council	None

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930

- (1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. None
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit ... .. None

No houses have been represented as unfit for human habitation during the year. The following houses were represented as unfit for human habitation under Section 19 during previous years :—

1930	..	..	11 houses.
1931	..	..	51 houses.
1932	..	..	4 houses.
1933	..	..	18 houses.

The following table shows the result of such action during the year :—

Premises.	No. of Houses	Date of Representation.	Action taken.	Remarks.
Overy Street, 7 and 9.	2	5— 7—33	Undertaking to execute works accepted 4—10—33.	Works carried out.
Manor Place 9.	1	2— 8—33	Demolition Order made 4—10—33.	
Hadlow Place, Lowfield Street 1 to 7.	7	9—11—33	Demolition Order made 12—3—34.	Appeal lodged and heard June, 1934. Order confirmed.
Overy Street, 2 to 16.	8	27—12—33	Demolition Order made 12—2—34.	

In addition to the houses set out in the table, 90 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing Act, and notices regarding repairs, etc., have been served with regard thereto.

The number of new houses completed during 1934 was 499.

The following table shows the number of new houses built during the past ten years :—

				Built by Council.	Private Enterprise Subsidy.	Non-Subsidy.	Total
1925	...	...	...	128	50	26	204
1926	...	...	...	94	45	50	189
1927	...	...	...	256	107	32	395
1928	...	...	...	56	81	31	168
1929	...	...	...	—	125	84	209
1930	...	...	...	14	—	266	280
1931	...	...	...	76	—	232	308
1932	...	...	...	181	—	170	351
1933	...	...	...	112	—	408	520
1934	...	...	...	—	—	499	499
Totals				917	408	1798	3123

No houses were built by the Corporation during the year, but the completion of the Heath Lane Housing Estate is being proceeded with in 1935.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, the following licences were in force during the year :—

<b>Certified</b> (supplementary dealers)	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Grade A (T.T.)</b> Bottling and Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers only	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Grade A.</b> Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	1
<b>Pasteurised.</b> Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	2

Twelve samples of Graded milks were taken during the year.

The examination of Graded milks and other bacteriological work in connection with food is carried out by the Kent County Council at the County Bacteriological Laboratory.

No legal action has had to be taken under the Meat Regulations, 1924. There are two registered slaughterhouses in the district, and the notification of the times of slaughtering has been very satisfactory. **234 inspections have been made during the year.**



The amount of food destroyed during the year was 14 cwt. 3 qrs. 18 lbs., particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year. The disease was prevalent in London and Greater London during the early part of the year, and frequent notifications of contacts have been received and traced and the usual precautions taken.

### DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria was prevalent during the year. The number of cases (exclusive of cases notified from Institutions) was 59, which is the highest number since 1927. The cases were evenly distributed throughout the whole of the year. All the cases were removed to hospital and, in addition, three suspected cases were admitted for observation and were later discharged as negative.

Contacts with cases notified, and also suspected children referred to the Department by the school teachers are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent both in Dartford and the surrounding districts during the greater part of the year.

The number of cases notified (excluding institutional cases), was 143 as compared with 61 for the previous year. 57 of the cases occurred during the first quarter of the year.

Of the cases notified, 57 were removed to hospital and 86 nursed at home.

There were 6 return cases during the year, one of which was associated with a case nursed in a London County Council Hospital.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

### MEASLES.

Measles is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, but the cases amongst children of school age are notified to the Department by the Head Teachers of Schools.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases can be admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

The disease was prevalent during the last three months of the year.



## CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer was 34, being 11.8 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with :—

1933	...	33 deaths	11.66 per cent. of total deaths.
1932	...	49 "	17.3 " " " "
1931	...	27 "	10.97 " " " "
1930	...	28 "	12.33 " " " "
1929	...	30 "	9.64 " " " "

## INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza during the year was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

## DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and if requested after death from cancer.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ... ..	59	...	3	2	4	6	23	9	4	6	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	143	1	5	9	8	7	66	24	8	9	4	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	21	...	...	1	1	1	7	1	3	2	...	5	...
Erysipelas ... ..	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ... ..	31	...	4	...	...	3	17	5	1	1	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Of the cases notified, 59 cases of Diphtheria and 57 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ... ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	1
Erysipelas ... ..	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Small Pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

#### DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ... ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ... ..	13	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	6
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5—10 .....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
10—15 .....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—20 .....	....	5	....	1	....	....	....	....
20—25 .....	5	3	....	1	1	1	....	....
25—35 .....	4	4	....	2	3	4	....	1
35—45 .....	5	....	....	....	1	3	....	....
45—55 .....	2	....	....	....	3	1	....	....
55—65 .....	2	....	....	....	2	1	....	....
65 and upwards .....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Totals .....	19	13	....	5	11	10	....	1

25 of the 37 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 11 cases notified previous to 1934 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to four of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number on Register at commencement of Year	115	88	26	33	262
Number on Register at end of Year .....	115	80	23	36	254

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(a) Children attending at beginning of 1934, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	6	14	7	5	31	15	15	7	100
Thursday	7	11	7	7	29	18	18	12	109
Friday	4	21	13	9	21	25	18	12	123
Totals	17	46	27	21	81	58	51	31	332

(b) New entrants, ages at entry :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	78	18	2	5	10	7	4	3	127
Thursday	81	7	3	3	3	4	5	5	111
Friday	77	11	6	2	4	12	7	6	125
Totals	236	36	11	10	17	23	16	14	363

(c) Children attending at beginning of 1935, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	5	10	16	12	23	17	8	6	97
Thursday	7	12	17	10	24	16	15	10	111
Friday	9	8	15	5	32	15	15	8	107
Totals	21	30	48	27	79	48	38	24	315

Number of mothers attending the Clinics, **660**.

Total attendances of mothers, **8,745**.

Of the number of infants registered, **236** were under the age of three months on registration.

### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on register during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	527
Average attendance per clinic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.54

The particulars of the 145 new cases who attended the Clinic during the year 1934 are as follows :—

Normal cases ... ..	68
Abnormal cases ... ..	30
Cases showing other conditions requiring treatment ... ..	38
Not pregnant ... ..	9

Analysis of abnormal ante-natal cases :—

Contracted Pelvis ... ..	5
Malpresentations :—	
Occipito posterior ... ..	3
Breech ... ..	2
Transverse stillborn ... ..	1
Twins ... ..	1
Toxaemias :—	
Pre-eclampsia ... ..	1
Albuminuria ... ..	2
Miscarriage ... ..	4
Premature stillbirth ... ..	2
Persistent vomiting ... ..	1
Pyelitis ... ..	1
Chronic nephritis ... ..	1
Placenta praevia and antepartum haemorrhage ... ..	2
Pruritis, cervicitis and vaginitis ... ..	4

Other conditions requiring treatment (frequently more than one present in same patient) :—

Dental caries ... ..	23
Varicose veins ... ..	16
Severe Anaemia ... ..	3
Haemorrhoids ... ..	2
Epilepsy ... ..	1
Tuberculosis ... ..	1
Scabies ... ..	1
Discharging ears ... ..	1

### MATERNITY HOME.

Arrangements are made for the admission of cases into the British Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and financial assistance is given according to scale of income.

### PUERPERAL FEVER and PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS 1926.

Arrangements have been made under these regulations for :—

- (a) The admission of cases requiring hospital treatment into the North Western Hospital of the London County Council.
- (b) The services of an obstetric consultant when required.
- (c) The Dartford District Nursing Association to undertake home nursing where hospital treatment is not necessary.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

## **TREATMENT OF SQUINT.**

Arrangements are in force for the treatment of squint in children under school age by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon. One case was referred for treatment during the year.

## **ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.**

During the year three children received treatment under the Kent County Council scheme for the orthopædic treatment of children under school age.

## **DENTAL TREATMENT TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.**

Three children and two mothers were granted assistance in accordance with the Council's Scheme for dental treatment during the year.

## **OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**

No cases were notified during the year. Children requiring treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be received into St. Margaret's Hospital by arrangement with the London County Council.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.**

No action has had to be taken with regard to cases of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the milk trade.

## **SECTION 62 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.**

No action has been taken during the year with regard to compulsory removal of cases of Tuberculosis under this section.

## **VENEREAL DISEASES.**

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases. A local Clinic is held by them at the King Edward Avenue Hospital.



## MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1934 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows :—

14,984 pints free.
1,145 pints half price.
180 lb. dried milk free.
20 lb. „ „ half-price.

## CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1 and CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932.

The main object of the above is to secure that any child under nine years of age maintained “for reward” shall be notified to the Local Authority in order that supervision of the home conditions and the health of the child can be carried out.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	...	...	140
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	...	...	20
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	...	...	23

## HOME VISITATION.

### VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year ;

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	405
Number of visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	1,381
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	1,032
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	3,219
Total visits	...	...	...	4,600

In addition to these visits the following have been paid :—

Ante-Natal visits (to 134 individual cases)	...	...	313
Death enquiries	...	...	4

## VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The Lady Voluntary Workers at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre make themselves responsible for the keeping of the registers of mothers and children attending the Clinic, and organise both a Baby Show and a social evening.



I wish to tender thanks to them on behalf of the Corporation, for this good work, and to the donors of prizes for the Baby Show and social evening, and to all who assisted in making these events a success.

Appended hereto are the following :—

- (1). Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2). Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

**T. FARTHING,**

Medical Officer of Health.

# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1934 :—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
In addition to the above 51 disinfections of verminous houses were carried out.							

## HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS 1925.

Number of houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	90
Notices re defects served on Owners :—			
Preliminary—Served 90 : Complied with 95 : in hand, Dec. 31st			43
Statutory— " 1 : " " 1 : " "			None
Houses put in order during year including those dealt with under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930	...	...	97

## ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 217 : complied with 215 : in hand, Dec. 31	37
Statutory Notices " 26 : " " 23 : " "	4

## COMPLAINTS.

326 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

## DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water— New Buildings	...	...	...	1632
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	47
" " " " " " smoke—New Buildings	...	...	...	390
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	5
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	...	2074
Number of drains cleared by the Department	...	...	...	216

Of the drains cleared by the department 45 were in connection with the Council houses and various other properties owned by the Corporation.

## INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

### Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licenced	...	...	...	...	None
Registered	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	234

## Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1926

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale) ... ..	6
"                    (Retail) ... ..	39
(Including 10 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)	
Number of Cowsheds ... .. 6 ... Inspections ... ..	35
Number of Dairies ... .. 9 ... Inspections ... ..	50
Number of Milkshops ... .. 3 ... Inspections ... ..	9
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with ... ..	3

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following licences were in force during the year :—

<b>Certified</b> (supplementary dealers) ... ..	1
<b>Grade A (T.T.)</b> Bottling and Dealers ... ..	3
Dealers only ... ..	3
Supplementary Dealers ... ..	1
<b>Grade A.</b> Supplementary Dealers ... ..	1
<b>Pasteurised.</b> Supplementary Dealers ... ..	2
Number of samples taken during the year ... ..	12
Number not complying with the standard .. ..	3

The three samples not complying with the standard were from one dealer who then changed his source of supply. Subsequent samples have been in order.

## OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Meat and other Food Inspections ... ..	252
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections ... ..	105
Fried Fish Shop Inspections ... ..	44
Bakehouse Inspections ... ..	25

## UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food surrendered and destroyed during the year was 14 cwt. 3 qrs. 18 lb., details of which are as follows :—

**Beef.**—6 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lb.

**Pork.**—3 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lb., including 2 complete carcasses and 6 heads affected with tuberculosis.

**Organs.**—3 qrs. 11 lb., including 1 pig's pluck and 6 beasts' livers.

**Fish.**—2 cwts.

**Tinned Goods.**—1 cwt. 3 qrs. 16 lb., 11 tinned Hams, 2 tins livers, 1 tin corned beef.

**Other Foods.**—1 qr. 13 lb., including 13 chickens.

No seizures of food were made during the year. The carcasses, etc., destroyed were surrendered on request after inspection.

The mutual Insurance Schemes of the Dartford, Sevenoaks, and Rochester Cattle Markets is, as in previous years, of great assistance in dealing with the home-killed meat supply of the district. Under these schemes, on the payment of a premium by both buyer and seller compensation is granted, on the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector, for diseased carcasses or portions of carcasses.

#### LODGING HOUSES ETC.

Number of Lodging Houses on Register ... ..	1
„ „ Houses let in Lodgings on Register ... ..	2
„ „ Inspections ... ..	16

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register ... ..	10
„ „ Rag and Bone Dealers ... ..	2
„ „ Tanyards ... ..	1
„ „ Knacker's Yards ... ..	1
„ „ Inspections ... ..	63

#### OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected ... ..	91
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws ... ..	12
Inspections of Cinemas ... ..	4
Re-inspections and visits to Work in progress ... ..	1,382
Visits re Applications for Council Houses ... ..	128

#### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year 22 inspections were made under the above. Advice was given with regard to dealing with these pests and in certain cases poison baits were laid down with good results. Where considered necessary the drains of the premises were smoke-tested and any defects dealt with.

#### SMOKE NUISANCES.

During the year 15 observations have been taken of the smoke emitted by the chimneys in the various works. One case of black smoke nuisance and two other smoke nuisances were remedied during the year.

#### NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired ... ..	49
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed ... ..	23
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered ... ..	67
Damp walls remedied ... ..	63

House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Lighting or Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Broken sash cords replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Separate water supply (in place of common tap) provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Gully fenders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Houses previously cesspool drained, connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains re-constructed (No. of houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

I am,

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Obedient Servant,

**WALTER E. BALCHIN,**

Sanitary Inspector.

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

## Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Defects found	Defects remedied
Factories (including Factory laundries) ... ..	14	1	...
Workshops (including Workshop laundries) ... ..	75	2	3
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises) ... ..	15	2	2
Total ... ..	104	5	5

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prosec- utions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	2	3	...	...
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	(Insufficient ... ..	1	...	...
	Unsuitable or defective	2	2	...
	Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.101).	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	5	5	...	...

## HOME WORK.

No. of Lists received 6.    Inspections 7.

### REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.										Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Joiners and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total									...	61

\*There are also 9 Factory Bakehouses in the District.



